



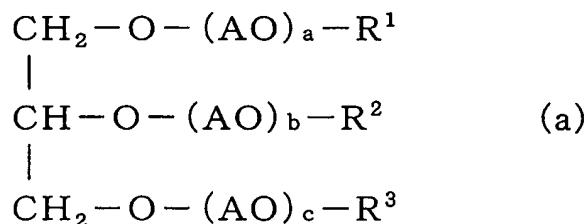
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A deinking agent comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (Y), its hydroxyl value (OHV), saponification value (SV) and acid value (AV) satisfying the following: OHV/(SV - AV + OHV) ranges from 0 to 0.3. 0.5

X-[O-(AO)m-R]n (Y)

[wherein R is each independently a hydrogen atom or an acyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, provided that at least one of plural R is an acyl group having 8 to 24 carbon atoms, A is an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, A may be the groups wherein the numbers of their carbon atoms are different, and m x n is a numerical number of from 45 to 1000, X is a polyhydric alcohol group, n is a number of 3 to 10 being equivalent the valence of X and wherein, said deinking agent is prepared by esterifying an alkylene oxide adduct to a polyhydric alcohol having 3 to 10 valences with a carboxylic acid at a temperature of 100°C to 260°C.

2. (Original) The deinking agent according to Claim 1, in which the compound is represented by the following general formula (a), its hydroxyl value (OHV), saponification value (SV) and acid value (AV) satisfying the following: OHV/(SV - AV + OHV) ranges from 0 to 0.3,



wherein R1 to R3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, or an acyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms provided that at least one of R1 to R3 is an acyl group having 8 to 24 carbon

atoms, A is an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, A may be the groups wherein the numbers of their carbon atoms are different, and a+b+c is a numerical number of from 45 to 1000.

3. (Original) The deinking agent according to Claim 2, in which the hydroxyl value (OHV) of a fraction having a weight average molecular weight of 2000 or more, the saponification value (SV) thereof and the acid value (AV) thereof satisfying the following: OHV/(SV - AV + OHV) ranges from 0 to 0.3.

4. (Currently Amended) The deinking agent according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (a) is an esterified reactant of a reaction product obtained by adding an alkylene oxide to glycerin or a mixture of glycerin and oil and fat, and a carboxylic acid.

5. (Original) A method of removing ink by using the deinking agent according to any one of claim 1 or 2 in an ink removing step.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A deinking agent obtained by the process as defined in Claim 71.

9. (New) The deinking agent of claim 1, wherein the esterification is carried out without fat or oil.

10. (New) The deinking agent of claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a trihydric alcohol having 3 to 10 valences.